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LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to request the circulation of the annexed statement of the member countries of the Central European Initiative - Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia - of 18 July 1992 as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter HOHENFELLNER
Ambassador

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Annex

DECLARATION

The member countries of the Central European Initiative, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia, assembled today in Vienna, launch the following most pressing appeal to the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General:

(1) Due to the tragic events in former Yugoslavia and in particular in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Europe is faced with the greatest refugee crisis witnessed since the Second World War. Close to 2 million people have been displaced since the outbreak of the fighting.

(2) Due to the recent military offensive in Bosnia-Herzegovina, there arose an acute danger of an even further rapid increase of the wave of refugees and displaced persons affecting all neighbouring countries, in particular Croatia. This problem must be urgently solved by providing additional financial and material assistance.

(3) It is of paramount importance that the fighting be brought to an immediate end. In this context we have taken note of and strongly welcome the agreement reached in London on 17 July 1992. We express the hope that this agreement will be strictly respected by all parties.

(4) As soon as the fighting is stopped it is of paramount importance that the earliest possible return of displaced persons to their original homes should be facilitated and put into effect.

(5) Moreover, to prevent further expulsions of autochthon and in particular Moslem populations, security zones in the appropriate areas have to be established under United Nations control.

(6) Bosnia-Herzegovina has just been recognized as an independent country and admitted to the United Nations. In view of the danger to its very existence we appeal to the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures in support of the territorial integrity and the urgent needs of the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina.